

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 20026 021227Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----031971 021228Z /10

O 021216Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2314
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 20026

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EG, US
SUBJECT: CAIRO PREPARATORY CONFERENCE--REPLIES RECEIVED

REF: STATE 287614 (NOTAL)

1. IN COURSE OF HOUR LONG MEETING WITH ACTING FONMIN
BOUTROS GHALI TODAY, I GAVE HIM SECRETARY'S LETTER
ACCEPTING INVITATION TO ATTEND CONFERENCE (REFTEL).
TOLD HIM OUR EARLIER ACCEPTANCE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO VP
MUBARAK ORALLY, BUT THAT WE KNEW HE WOULD APPRECIATE
WRITTEN REPLY. GHALI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION.

2. ASKED ABOUT OTHER REPLIES, GHALI SAID JORDAN, LEBANON
AND SOVIETS HAVE FORMALLY REPLIED. ALL HAVE DECLINED TO
ATTEND. LEBANON'S REPLY INDICATED IT WISHED ONLY TO
PARTICIPATE IN FINAL PHASES OF GENEVA CONFERENCE, AT
WHICH TIME, HOPEFULLY, LEBANESE/ISRAELI ARRANGEMENTS
COULD BE WORKED OUT. JORDANIAN REFUSAL BASED ON FACT
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THAT OTHER ARAB STATES ARE NOT ATTENDING. ASKED ABOUT
VIEW EXPRESSED TO US BY SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL THAT JORDANIAN
REPLY WAS ACTUALLY POSITIVE, GHALI SAID HE COULD NOT
REALISTICALLY VIEW IT THAT WAY. SOVIETS HAD DECLINED ON
GROUNDS THAT ONLY CO-CHAIRMEN COULD ISSUE INVITATIONS TO
ANY MEETINGS HAVING TO DO WITH GENEVA. SYRIA AND PALES-
TINIANS HAVE NOT YET REPLIED. GHALI THOUGHT BOTH WOULD

PROBABLY REFUSE. IN THE CASE OF THE PALESTINIANS, HE IS WAITING FOR DAJANI TO RETURN WITH ARAFAT'S ANSWER.

3. GHALI SAID HE HAD EMPHASIZED TO LEBANESE AND SOVIETS THAT THE CONFERENCE IS AN "INFORMAL" ONE. HE HAD DELIBERATELY USED THIS LANGUAGE, ON HIS OWN, IN ORDER TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE INVITEES THAT THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR GENEVA WERE NOT APPLICABLE. NOR WOULD THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE BE BINDING ON ANY OF THE PARTIES. THIS SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE PARTIES TO ATTEND. REGRETTABLY, NEITHER LEBANESE NOR SOVIETS HAD ACCEPTED THIS NOTION. (GHALI TOLD ME PERSONALLY THAT, WHEN HE TOLD HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES ABOUT THE USE OF THE TERM "INFORMAL" IN THE INVITATION, THEY HAD BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL. THE PRESIDENT'S IDEA, THE PRIMIN HAD POINTED OUT, WAS A FORMAL CONFERENCE. BY THEN, HOWEVER, THE INVITATIONS WERE ALREADY OUT.)

4. GHALI'S PRESENT EXPECTATION IS THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE LIMITED TO EGYPT, ISRAEL, UNITED STATES AND UNITED NATIONS. EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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